COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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Reply To: (213) 738-4601
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April 20, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR
THE HOPE, WELLNESS, AND RECOVERY COMMEMORATION AND
THE 11TH ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
VOLUNTEER AND PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARDS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct an all-day event at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities on May 20, 2010, for a Hope, Wellness, and Recovery event as part of commemorating the Department of Mental Health's 50 years of service, and for the 11th Annual Mental Health Commission Volunteer and Program Recognition Awards.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to conduct a Hope, Wellness, and Recovery commemoration event, and the 11th Annual Mental Health Commission (Commission) Volunteer and Program Recognition Awards, to be held on May 20, 2010, at an amount not to exceed $11,000.

2. Authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for participants consisting of mental health consumers, students, commissioners, County employees, DMH stakeholders, and representatives from chambers of commerce, veterans groups, your Board offices, and 88 cities, in exception to Los Angeles County Code Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, which limits such purchases to $500 per occurrence and $5,000 annually.

3. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment) to utilize its facility for this conference at no cost for space, and to make a payment to the Endowment's designee for catering.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host an all-day event scheduled for May 20, 2010, with a morning session for the Hope, Wellness, and Recovery event as part of DMH's commemoration of 50 years of service, and an afternoon session at which the Commission will host the 11th Annual Volunteer and Program Recognition Awards. The commemoration event will help honor services provided by veterans and the issues they have faced, and the awards program will acknowledge volunteers who contributed to the mental health community at large.

The morning session, the Hope, Wellness, and Recovery event, will bring about a much needed discourse on issues affecting veterans, a population that historically has been inadequately served. By addressing the integration of services and coordination of care for the veteran population across the service spectrum, veterans will benefit from innovative ideas to address the lack of adequate service they receive. Subject matter experts will address specific treatment issues related to post traumatic stress disorder and suicide prevention for veterans. In addition, the Hope, Wellness, and Recovery event will showcase and commemorate an array of DMH efforts attending to the mental health needs of the people of Los Angeles, which begins with the opening ceremony conducted by Supervisor Antonovich and concludes with a closing ceremony showcasing a series of exhibits and digital archives.

The afternoon session, the Commission's Volunteer and Program Recognition Awards, is the sole opportunity for the Commission to recognize and honor outstanding members of the mental health community each year. The Commission, by law, is comprised of 51 percent clients and family members appointed by the Board to advocate for the thousands of men, women, and children who face the disabling effects of mental illness. Stigma is the single greatest challenge clients face. This event provides an important opportunity to showcase that hope, wellness, and recovery are possible and to acknowledge those who have dedicated their minds, hearts, and souls to the cause.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost of these programs is $11,000, fully funded by Mental Health Services Act and realignment revenue. Estimated costs are for catering services for up to 375 participants for the Hope, Wellness, and Recovery event, and 250 participants for the awards program, and to defray travel and lodging expenses for the event's keynote speaker. There are no costs associated with honorariums. Funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 Final Budget. There is no increase in net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Annually, DMH celebrates May as Mental Health Month, and this year DMH will commemorate 50 years of service to Los Angeles County. The Commission and DMH have selected this time for

these events because they provide opportunities to support DMH in its mission to reinforce the power of hope and positive thinking and provide an environment that envisions solutions to the many challenges of having a mental illness. Veterans are faced with residual effects of war upon completing their duties, and DMH intends to lead a discussion on the integration of veterans' services and mental health care, with particular emphasis on promoting prevention and early intervention for this population. In addition, volunteers provide many unique and transformative resources to consumers that support their journey to wellness and recovery. Catering services are needed because many of the consumers and students attending the events do not have the financial resources to pay for meals, and it will provide participants with the opportunity to share personal recovery experiences and resources.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The Endowment was selected based on availability, size of accommodations, ease of both auto and public transportation, and the fact that no cost for space is charged. The Endowment prohibits the use of outside catering services and requires DMH to make payment to its designee for catering services.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The commemoration event contributes to the Department's collaboration efforts with many agencies on how to better serve veterans, and the awards program provides an opportunity to showcase and reward programs and individuals that have improved the lives of those affected with mental illness.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director

MJS:MM:RK

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission